MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: May I know how long this has been under consideration of the Committee?

DR. K. L. MOUDGILL: The Committee was constituted only recently, Sir, some two months ago.

Sub-Treasury at Chengannur.

185. ❋ MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvella*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have taken steps for establishing a sub-treasury at Chengannur as undertaken by the Land Revenue Commissioner on behalf of the Government during the last budget session of the Sri Mulam Assembly; and

(*b*) if the answer to (a) is in the negative, the reasons for the same?

MR. R. RAMA VARIER (*Deputy Accountant General in charge of the Financial Secretary's duties*): (*a*) No.

(*b*) On financial grounds.

Electric supply to Chengannur.

186. ❋MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the electric supply has been extended to Chengannur;

(*b*) whether the Government or the Electrical Chief Engineer has received any representation from the public of Chengannur, regarding the extension of electric supply to Chengannur; and

(*c*) the action so far taken in the matter?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) A load survey of the locality has been conducted and the estimate for the work is under scrutiny. The work will be taken up on receipt of line materials for which orders have been placed already.

Capital Punishment.

187. ❋ MR. G. VELU PILLAI (*Karunagapalli* cum *Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state the number of cases in which capital punishment was given or confirmed by the High Court in each year from 1110 onwards?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Legal Remembrancer to Government*): A *statement showing the information required is laid on the table.

Paper Mills at Punalur.

188. ❋ MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Government entered into an agreement with the Paper Mills at Punalur undertaking to supply timber and reeds for a long period; and

(*b*) the terms of the contract?

Vide Appendix VII, page 453.

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RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKATESWARA AIYAR (*Conservator of Forests*): (*a*) and (*b*) The matter is under correspondence and the terms of the agreement have not been finally settled.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: With regard to the answer given, may I know the policy of Government in entering into such contracts?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKATESWARA AIYAR: The policy of Government is to encourage local industries without detriment to the forest policy.

Pay of the teachers in the University of Travancore.

189. * **MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there is a proposal to revise the pay of the teachers in the University of Travancore; and

(*b*) if so, the nature of the revision?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR: (*a*) and (*b*) The University is an autonomous statutory body and the proposals under consideration by it, if any, are not of direct concern to Government.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, I rise to a point of order. This is a matter affecting the privileges and prestige of this House and as you are the custodian of such privileges and prestige, I wish to raise a point of order. From page 185 of the Preliminary Budget it could be seen that an amount of Rs. 8·25 lakhs is given as grant to the University and this question relates to the manner in which the sum we are going to sanction is to be expended. The question is "will the Government be pleased to state: (*a*) whether there is a proposal to revise the pay of the teachers in the University of Travancore; and (*b*) if so, the nature of the revision?, and the answer is "The University is an autonomous statutory body and the proposals under consideration by it, if any, are not of direct concern to Government." My point is this. Since the salary of the teachers has to be met from the grant which is sanctioned by this House, are we not entitled to make enquiries in regard to that matter and are we not entitled to put such questions bearing on the expenditure of the grant sanctioned by this House?

PRESIDENT: I am glad that this point of order has been raised. It is an important question affecting and likely to affect not only the University but many other institutions. As was stated in the answer, the University of Travancore is autonomous and has been constituted by a Statute. Under that Statute, there is a Senate and a Syndicate and certain organisations dealing with University finances. In consideration and appreciation of the objects of the University the Government are giving certain grants. If the University misuses that grant or makes appointments in such an extravagant manner or on

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